

Message Text

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72

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 EB-11 AID-20 OMB-01 TRSE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19

DRC-01 /148 W

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R 150059Z SEP 73

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9403

INFO AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O. 11652: DECLASSIFY OCTOBER 15, 1973

TAGS: PINS, SF, LT

SUBJ: CARLETONVILLE INCIDENT; UNDP PROJECT

1. LESOTHO PERMREP MOLAPO CALLED ON AMBASSADOR BENNETT SEPTEMBER 14 TO REPORT PHONE CONVERSATION WHICH HE HAD YESTERDAY WITH HIS PRIME MINISTER, CONCERNING CARLETONVILLE SHOOTINGS. MOLAPO SAID THAT FIVE BASOTHO WERE AMONG THOSE KILLED, AND THAT FULL REPORT HAD BEEN REQUESTED BY HIS GOVERNMENT FROM SAG (MASERU 1030). LESOTHO HAS NOT YET RECEIVED REPLY FROM SAG, AND IS UNDERTAKING ITS OWN STUDY, RESULTS OF WHICH WILL BE MADE KNOWN TO US WHEN THEY ARE AVAILABLE. NO SC ACTION INDICATED AT THIS TIME. AMBASSADOR BENNETT EXPRESSED HIS PROFOUND DISTRESS OVER THE INCIDENT AND CONVEYED SYMPATHY.

2. AMB MOLAPO USED HIS MENTION OF TELEPHONE CALL TO REQUEST US ASSISTANCE IN APPROVING UNDP PROJECTS FOR LESOTHO. AMONG THESE IS \$490,000 TELECOMMUNICATIONS LINK FROM MASERU TO NAIROBI. THIS WOULD ENABLE MASERU TO REDUCE DEPENDENCE UPON CAPETOWN LINE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND, HOPEFULLY, ELIMINATE SAG INTERFERENCE WITH PHONE CONVERSATIONS. MOLAPO SAID TELEPHONE

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CONTACT WITH MASERU IS CLEAR AND QUICK BUT GOES THROUGH

JOHANNESBURG, WHERE SA OPERATORS HAVE STANDING PRACTICE OF ARBITRARILY INTERRUPTING, DELAYING OR MAKING CALLS IMPOSSIBLE. HE ALLEGED SA INTELLIGENCE AGENTS CHECK ALL CALLS AND CONTACT WITH HIGH LESOTHO OFFICIALS SUCH AS PM OR ON MATTERS OF SUBSTANCE PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT AND SUBJECT HARASSMENT. MOLAPO WAS QUIETLY ELOQUENT ON THIS SUBJECT. ANOTHER OF THESE PROJECTS WOULD BE CONSTRUCTION OF INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AT MASERU. THIS, TOO, WOULD INCREASE LESOTHO'S INDEPENDENCE VIS-A-VIS SA AND, ACCORDING TO MMOLAPO, WOULD HELP ALLEVIATE INCREASING SAG PRESSURES AGAINST THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF HIS COUNTRY. AS EXAMPLE OF LATTER, MOLAPO CITED PRETORIA'S EFFORTS TO PREVENT MERCEDES AND HONDA ASSEMBLY PLANTS FROM OPENING IN LESOTHO.

3. COMMENT: FROM TALK WITH MOLAPO AND OTHER AFRICANS, IT APPEARS THAT QUESTION OF CARLETONVILLE MAY WELL BE LUMPED TOGETHER WITH NAMIBIA ITEM AND GENERAL SOUTH AFRICAN QUESTION. SC DEBATE ON NAMIBIA IS STILL SCHEDULED TO BE HELD DURING LATE SEPT AND, FOR POSSIBLY, EARLY OCT. AF CAUCUS TO MEET AGAIN ON CARELETONVILLE SEPT 17.
BENNETT

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